

An old man and his grandson were walking along a deserted beach at sunset. The little boy became concerned about all the starfish that had washed up on the beach. He bent down and, one by one, began to return them to the safety of the waves. "What do you think you are doing?" said the man gently to his grandson.

"I'm throwing these starfish back into the ocean," said the little boy. "It's low tide now and all these starfish have been washed up onto shore. If I don't throw them back into the sea, they'll die up here."

"I understand," replied the old man. "But there must be thousands of starfish on this beach. You can't possibly get all of them. There are simply too many. And this is probably happening on hundreds of beaches all up and down the coast. Can't you see that you can't possibly make a difference?"

The little boy smiled, bent down and picked up yet another starfish, and as he threw it back into the sea, he turned to his grandfather and said, "I made a difference to that one!"

**NRO is proud of its many volunteers
who, too,
"make a difference" in others' lives**

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**MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR,
OFFICE OF COMMUNITY SERVICE**

" What is Community Service Activities? It is NRO volunteers supporting communities and families, giving of themselves, their time and talents, and enriching the lives of others."

The Community Service Activities (CSA) Program is the *heart* of the National Reconnaissance Office (NRO). Throughout the year, hundreds of volunteers demonstrate commitment to selfless acts of caring for others by contributing their time, talents, and resources to nearly 30 worthy causes. The generosity of our people provides comfort and encouragement to many throughout our larger community. Whether it's tutoring a child, helping build a home, collecting food and clothing for families less fortunate, or placing holiday wreaths at Arlington National Cemetery, NRO employees respond willingly and in overwhelming numbers. I believe you will find the descriptions and photos contained in this annual report inspirational. On behalf of the NRO I commend all those who work tirelessly behind the scenes to enrich others' lives. I thank all of our organizers, coordinators, and employees for this truly remarkable success story!

Brian A. Malone

Our Flag -- Fly It Proudly

As we remember September 11, 2001, and the tremendous losses suffered that day, we realize how many aspects of our lives have been changed forever. The day the world won't forget touched all of us with a deep sadness. Yet, as our Flag continues to wave, we stand proud as a nation, pulling together to help our fellow Americans whenever the need arises. In the year following September 11, 2001, we have once again witnessed the outpouring of love, caring, and generosity of NRO employees. Our losses may be many but our spirit will continue to inspire and our Flag will continue to fly. Let's fly it proudly.

Civic

Adopt-A-Highway

This activity supports the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) **Adopt-A-Highway** program. The Adopt-A-Highway program was developed and introduced in 1988 by VDOT in cooperation with the "Keep Virginia Beautiful" campaign. The mission of the program is to preserve the Commonwealth's natural resources and reduce the accumulation of litter along Virginia highways. Volunteers are responsible for maintaining four miles of Rt. 28 adjacent to the Westfield's facility.

In 2002, 14 volunteers contributed 42 hours to the cleanup event that netted 42 bags of trash, tires, guardrails, mufflers, and other debris. Among the more unusual items found were a "Men at Work" sign and a full case of beer!

Arlington National Cemetery Holiday Wreath Laying

A Special Stillness...

For the tenth consecutive year, Morrill Worcester (President, Worcester Wreath Company in Harrington, ME) donated 4000 live Maine balsam fir wreaths that were placed on the Arlington National Cemetery graves of the honored dead from every state and territory. Arlington Cemetery management decides which section(s) are to be decorated each year.

The Maine State Society of Washington, DC, leads the effort to provide local volunteers to place the wreaths on each grave in the selected section(s). Approximately 75 NRO employees participated in this heart-warming holiday event.

This message was received from a veteran at one of NRO's facilities.

"I just wanted to say 'thanks' to all who do such a wonderful thing for our fallen veterans. I am a vet myself, my husband is retired Air Force, and our 23-year-old son is in the Air Force, so this event is something that is close to my heart. I wish I was there to help."

**Cards, Letters, and Care Packages
for Deployed Military Members**

NRO military personnel sponsored a collection of **care package** items for deployed military personnel. A total of \$5,973.38 and 53 letters were provided to the "Operation USO Care Package Program." The USO purchased the care package items and arranged shipping of the packages to numerous military installations for distribution during the holiday season.

Other NRO volunteers collected over 1,000 greeting **cards, letters**, posters, pictures, and calling cards that were sent via the American Red Cross to Air Force, Army, Navy, and Marine Corp troops. The mail came not only from NRO personnel but also from local school children, scout troops, and numerous church groups who wanted to show their support to deployed military personnel during the holiday season.

**Cell Phones for Senior Citizens and
Victims of Abuse**

"Got a new cell phone? Don't throw your old one away, put it to good use!"

The collection of used **cell phones** has become an ongoing activity at NRO. Phones are donated to the Fairfax County (VA) Police Department, Fair Oaks Station. The phones are then reprogrammed with 911 and distributed by participating organizations or services to senior citizens and victims of abuse throughout the United States.

During 2002, three NRO employees volunteered 12 hours to this activity and collected 153 cell phones.

One NRO facility that has been participating in this program since 1999 donated over 100 used cell phones to the Domestic Violence Unit of the local police department.

Northern Virginia Training Center

NRO employees provide assistance to the Northern Virginia Training Center (NVTC) in several areas other than the recycling program. During the 2002 holiday season, one NRO employee addressed and delivered 187 holiday cards for the Center, while members of the NRO Recycling Committee arranged a visit to NVTC to help wrap holiday gifts.

Resourceful Woman Thrift Shop of Loudoun County

The **Resourceful Woman Thrift Shop** provides emergency clothing, toys, and household items free to women and children who reside at the Loudoun Abused Women's Shelter (LAWS). The proceeds from sales at the shop pay the Shelter's operating expenses and support other LAWS programs. Volunteers assist in the shop by sorting, pricing, and hanging donated clothing, working the register, decorating the display windows, and assisting customers.

Small Household Appliances

CSA sponsored its first **Small Household Appliance** collection in 2002. Forty-five miscellaneous items--toasters, coffee makers, mixers, blenders, phones, irons, pots and pans, VCR, food processor, and can openers--were donated to SERVE in Manassas, VA, and Best Transitional Shelter in Dale City, VA. These organizations distribute the appliances to homeless, underprivileged, or handicapped individuals who have completed rehabilitation and are now able to set up housekeeping in either transitional housing or small apartments.

Three NRO employees volunteered nine hours to this activity.

Volunteer Emergency Families for Children

The NRO Chapter of the American Society of Military Comptrollers (ASMC) sponsored its first collection of clothing and school supplies which were donated to the **Volunteer Emergency Families for Children (VEFC)**. VEFC is a private, non-profit organization established in 1979 to provide shelter care for abused, neglected, runaway, homeless, or at-risk children. The families serve on a volunteer basis and receive no financial reimbursement. The children may stay at the volunteer's home for up to 21 days. The organization, which has programs in Fairfax and Prince William Counties (VA), and Alexandria and Manassas, VA, has assisted more than 12,900 children.

Walks for the Cure

American Foundation for Suicide Prevention

The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP) is a national not-for-profit organization. The AFSP sponsored a 26-mile walk from Fairfax, VA, to Washington, DC, on 17 August. Funds raised for participation in the walk went to suicide prevention research, education, and awareness programs. Several NRO employees provided volunteer and crew support during the walk.

Avon Breast Cancer 3-Day Walk

The **Avon Breast Cancer 3-Day Walk** took place in May 2002. Several NRO personnel participated in the three-day, 60-mile walk that began in Baltimore, MD, and ended at the Washington Monument. Each walker raised a minimum of \$1,900 for breast cancer research, education, mammography for women who cannot afford treatment, and childcare for women receiving chemotherapy or radiation treatments.

Young Parent's Services (YPS) of Loudoun County

The mission of **YPS** is to assist teenage pregnant and parenting mothers with individual and family counseling, parenting advice, education, prenatal care, and help in finding child care.

A collection to benefit YPS was held in 2002. NRO personnel donated diapers; baby food, formula and cereal; packages of Wipes; a stroller; and miscellaneous bottles, clothing, and shampoo.

Clothing

The 2002 **clothing collection** was very successful. Volunteers collected 332 warm items that were distributed to the Loudoun County Community Holiday Coalition in Leesburg, VA, the Sullivan House Shelter in Alexandria, VA, and the Seventh-Day Adventist Church in Washington, DC. Seven NRO employees volunteered 47 hours collecting, sorting, boxing, and distributing 110 adult coats, 30 children's coats, 14 pairs of pants, 20 pairs of socks, 2 pairs of thermal underwear, 12 children's snow suits, 4 pairs of adult snow boots, 2 pairs of children's snow boots, 10 pairs of adult shoes, 2 pairs of children's shoes, 16 adult hats, 35 children's hats, 24 scarves, 4 ear muffs, 16 pairs of adult gloves/mittens, 28 pairs of children's gloves/mittens, 3 pairs of men's boxers, and one bag of canned goods, which was donated to the Leesburg (VA) Interfaith Relief food program.

Educational

Back to School: Backpacks and School Supplies

CSA sponsored another successful **Back to School [Backpacks and School Supplies]** collection in August. The success of the collection far exceeded all expectations. For example: 18 binders; 710 pens; 281 erasers; 6 pencil sharpeners; 28 highlighters; 7 lunch bags; 51 packages of tissues; 8 tote bags; 29 backpacks; 33 pencil boxes; 7 pencil pouches; 69 rulers; 8 protractors; 219 composition notebooks; 4 writing tablets; 2 packages construction paper; 2 workbooks; 1 calculator; 1 package of tape; 366 markers; 44 bottles of glue; 76 glue sticks; 31 scissors; 91 packages of notebook paper; 215 folders; 48 pieces of chalk; 2,412 crayons; 564 color pencils; 1,219 pencils; 2 planners; and 6 note pads were collected.

Sixteen of the 29 backpacks were filled with items and donated to children identified by the NRO Employee Assistance Program as having a need. Additionally, the remaining items (backpacks, school supplies, clothes, and books) were disseminated to the Embry Rucker Shelter in Reston, VA, SERVE and the Westgate Elementary School in Manassas, VA, and the mentoring organization "Horton's Kids" in Washington, DC.

A successful collection to assist underprivileged students was sponsored by the First Class Petty Officer's Association (FCPOA) at an NRO facility.

Children's Book Collection

The annual **Children's Book Collection** was once again a huge success. NRO personnel donated 607 children's books that were given to the Loudoun County Community Holiday Coalition (LCCHC), Leesburg, VA. The mission of the Holiday Coalition is to help less fortunate families by providing much needed items, in a manner that promotes dignity and self-respect. They believe that a single act of kindness can be the turning point toward a brighter future for those in need. A gift of books made many children's holiday season a happier time. In addition to the 607 books donated to the LCCHC, 16 books were given to a local family with four children who were recovering from a family tragedy.

NRO CUB RUN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PARTNERS IN EDUCATION

(Add picture from Cub Run)

NRO and Cub Run Elementary School have been "Partners in Education" for the last seven years. It has been a wonderfully rewarding seven years for everyone involved. The program includes hundreds of NRO tutors and mentors, a writers club, chess club, science club and many other activities like Youth Art Month and Principal for a Day. This year's new initiative is the "Federation of Galaxy Explorers," an after-school program designed for third through sixth graders. The Galaxy Explorers program provides students with hands-on opportunities to experiment with science and engineering principles important in space exploration.

NRO employees served as class speakers on a variety of topics from the Rain Forest to the Civil War. For the 2002 Veteran's Day commemoration, Cub Run requested the NRO provide a member of the armed forces to speak about Veteran's Day. The presenter spoke to the sixth graders about the evolution of Veteran's Day, the guiding principles upon which our country was founded, and how students can best commemorate the day.

NRO also supports Cub Run with donations of used equipment.

To learn more about the program and tutoring opportunities contact Cathy Bowers, 808-1746.

School Presentations and Mentoring

NRO volunteers assisted as judges at high school science fairs, weekend tutoring at an area high school, and speaking before high school business and aviation classes.

Several NRO officers and enlisted personnel attended a mentoring program at Osbourn Park (OP) High School in Manassas, VA, that was sponsored by the Enlisted Advisory Council (EAC) for the Navy Junior ROTC (JROTC) program. Two former OP graduates who are currently NRO employees gave presentations that introduced the cadets to various career fields (e.g., communication specialists, engineers, operations professionals, and pilots). More than 100 cadets attended the two presentations and were left with this advice: *"Get up front. Don't be afraid to sit in the front of the classroom, because that's where the information is. It is the edge of knowledge that gives you power in your career decision with the military."* The EAC plans to participate with JROTC programs at other local schools.

Environmental

NRO Recycling Programs

Earth Day:

The Westfield's Recycling Committee sponsors many recycling projects at the NRO. One project--the sale of Earth Day t-shirts with the NRO recycling LOGO--allowed proceeds from the sales to be used to purchase T-shirts for the mentally and physically-disabled clients and their staff at the Northern Virginia Training Center (NVTC). Nine NRO employees presented the t-shirts to the residents at NVTC and provided entertainment by singing songs.

The Earth Day Compound Cleanup consisted of 19 volunteers who collected over 30 bags of trash from the Headquarters compound. Items collected included a door, a gas cap, a piece of car bumper, a license plate, a danger sign, and a Radford University soccer patch!

Eyeglass Collections:

The Recycling Committee also works with the Lion's Club in Silver Spring, MD, to collect used eyeglasses and contacts. The Lion's Club then refurbishes the eyewear and donates them to children in underprivileged areas. NRO donated 173 pairs of glasses and prescription sunglasses as well as five pairs of contacts.

NVTC Recycling:

NRO is a major partner with NVTC. Aluminum cans, batteries, unclassified CDs, tapes, and videos were donated to NVTC. The money received from recycling these products supports NVTC's vocational training program.

Toiletries Collections:

The Embry Rucker Community Shelter in Reston, VA, was the recipient of 946 pounds of toiletries last year. Toiletries, such as shampoo, lotion, soap, dental products, are distributed to men, women, and families who temporarily reside at the 60-bed facility. This program, in its fourth year, has grown tremendously due in part to the personal-size, unused toiletries collected by NRO personnel while on travel. Two NRO employees volunteered 72 hours to the Shelter in 2002!

FOOD

Personnel attending the annual July All-American Day festivities were asked to donate a non-perishable food product. Two employees volunteered 10 hours in collecting 600 pounds of food that was delivered to Interfaith Relief in Leesburg, VA and SERVE in Manassas, VA.

The food drive held in December was another success. Donations were distributed among SERVE and AGAPE House, Manassas, VA; Fauquier County Family Shelter Services, Warrenton, VA; the Embry Rucker Shelter, Reston, VA; Warren County Council on Domestic Violence, Front Royal, VA; and Interfaith Relief in Leesburg, VA.

NRO volunteers support the Embry Rucker Community Shelter, Reston, VA, throughout the year by serving meals and cleaning up afterward. The mission of Embry Rucker is to help disadvantaged individuals in Northern Virginia.

Several NRO volunteers also assisted throughout the year at S.O.M.E (So Others Might Eat). S.O.M.E was founded over 30 years ago to help the poor and destitute of Washington, DC, especially those who live in shelters, on the streets, or are elderly. Food is what S.O.M.E is best known for, and volunteers from area churches, synagogues, and civic organizations serve over 1,000 meals each day.

Housing

Christmas in April

Christmas in April is a non-profit, one-day, nationwide home improvement blitz established in 1973. Volunteers repair homes to help low-income families, particularly the elderly, disabled, and families with children live independently in warmth and safety. Projects include landscaping, painting, light repairs, roofing, and hanging dry wall.

NRO volunteers participated in Christmas in April projects in Alexandria, VA; in Fairfax and Arlington Counties, VA; and in Falls Church, VA. The house captain for the Arlington project was so pleased with the work of the NRO volunteers that he asked if they would work with him on the April 2003 project!

Habitat for Humanity

Habitat for Humanity (H4H) International is a non-profit, ecumenical Christian housing ministry. Its mission is to eliminate poverty and homelessness in the world. H4H of Northern Virginia recently celebrated its twelfth year. Unlike Christmas in April, H4H literally builds homes from the ground up over the course of many months. Once a home is completed, a dedication ceremony is held for the new owners and the volunteers who assisted with the building.

Medical

Red Cross Blood Collections

One of the NRO's more popular community events is the **Red Cross blood collection**. Blood collections are held quarterly and the number of units collected always exceeds the goal. Over 700 units of blood were collected in 2002. Every 17 seconds, someone in our region receives a blood transfusion. The quarterly NRO Blood Drives help the Red Cross meet the many demands.

Special Olympics

"Let me win, but if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt"

Oath of the Special Olympics

The Prince William County (VA) planning committee sponsored a **Special Olympics Unified Softball Tournament** in June 2002. The tournament hosted 21 teams--approximately 300 members aged 8 to 22+--from all over the East Coast. Participants in the softball tournament are individuals with mental retardation (athletes) and those without mental retardation (partners) on the same team for training and competition. NRO volunteers assisted by handing out water and sun block, keeping score, serving breakfast and lunch, and helping with the opening and closing ceremonies. The Planning Committee was appreciative and impressed with the number of NRO volunteers who came out to help at the tournament.

Special Olympics Track and Field time trials were held in April 2002 at Herndon and Falls Church High Schools (VA). NRO volunteers were in charge of the shot put event, the softball throw, and the 50-yard and 100-meter runs. The results of the time trials were used to put athletes in proper divisions for the Northern Virginia Special Olympics Track Meet held in May at South Lakes High School in Reston, VA. Volunteers at the May event served at the registration desk, as Shot Put judges, track starters, and track linesmen. Participants competed in 16 different divisional events. Twenty-three schools and group homes in Northern Virginia were represented. Winners were to compete in the Virginia State Special Olympics Track Meet.

Prince William County Special Olympics sponsored a bowling tournament in April 2002 at Bowl America in Manassas, VA. Seventy-eight athletes from Fauquier, Loudoun, and Prince William Counties (VA) competed, and participants ranged in age from 8 to 63 years. Winners advanced to the State games held in Richmond, VA, in June 2002. The NRO had 31 volunteers who helped by keeping score and the order of bowlers, providing helpful advice and cheering the athletes. A great time was had by all.

Veteran's Hospital and Hospice Visits

Volunteers at one of the NRO's facilities visit veterans at the local VA Hospital. The volunteers roam the hallways and day rooms engaging the residents in conversation as a means to keep up the spirits of the aged veterans.

Members of the Chapter of American Society of Military Comptrollers (ASMC) at one of NRO's facilities supported a local Hospice. The Hospice is a non-profit agency serving about 2,500 annually by providing grief programs; educational services; care for the terminally ill; and evaluating the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of all patients. The ASMC members collected arts and craft items, games, and clothes for the children as well as provided hands-on support, such as reading to patients, gardening, and running an ice cream social.

Toys

Deb's Little Darlin's Stocking Collection

Deb's Little Darlin's stocking program began in 1996 to ensure that no child wakes up on Christmas morning without a filled Christmas stocking. Stockings are distributed to shelters in Virginia and Maryland. The stockings are stuffed with toys, books, and clothing items. For the past seven years, Deb's Little Darlin's has been an NRO tradition.

In 2002, NRO volunteers helped distribute, collect, sort, and deliver 927 stockings. This year, for the first time, 41 shelter gifts for local homeless and women's shelters were also distributed.

U.S. Marine Corps "Toys for Tots" Collection *55th Anniversary!* *1947-2002*

The U.S. Marine Corps **Toys for Tots** campaign is one of the nation's flagship holiday charitable events. For many, the holiday season just isn't complete until they place a new, unwrapped toy in the Toys for Tots collection box. This year, NRO employees and members of the Northern Virginia Country Western Dance Association donated 1,500 toys to the campaign.

In December, a group of tough-looking motorcyclists from the NRO rode through the streets of Centreville, VA. Their purpose wasn't to terrorize the town but to deliver toys to needy children in time for the holidays for the first ever **NRO Motorcycle Toy Run**. The group collected and delivered several hundred dollars worth of toys to the Toys for Tots Program. *"We plan on doing this again next year," said Kevin Carrow, organizer of the Run. "We birthed a tradition!"*

